



(12) **United States Patent**
Abelow

(10) **Patent No.:** **US 7,620,565 B2**
(45) **Date of Patent:** ***Nov. 17, 2009**

(54) **CUSTOMER-BASED PRODUCT DESIGN
MODULE**

(76) Inventor: **Daniel H. Abelow**, 71 W. Pine St.,
Newton, MA (US) 02166

(*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this
patent is extended or adjusted under 35
U.S.C. 154(b) by 298 days.

This patent is subject to a terminal dis-
claimer.

(21) Appl. No.: **11/509,701**

(22) Filed: **Aug. 25, 2006**

(65) **Prior Publication Data**

US 2007/0043632 A1 Feb. 22, 2007

Related U.S. Application Data

(63) Continuation of application No. 09/369,391, filed on
Aug. 6, 1999, now Pat. No. 7,133,834, which is a
continuation of application No. 08/934,457, filed on
Sep. 19, 1997, now Pat. No. 5,999,908, which is a
continuation of application No. 08/243,638, filed on
May 16, 1994, now abandoned, which is a continua-
tion-in-part of application No. 07/926,333, filed on
Aug. 6, 1992, now abandoned.

(51) **Int. Cl.**

G06Q 99/00 (2006.01)

G06F 9/44 (2006.01)

G06F 17/00 (2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.** **705/10; 705/7; 705/500**

(58) **Field of Classification Search** **705/1,**
705/7, 10, 500; 709/217, 219; 434/118
See application file for complete search history.

(56) **References Cited**

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

3,946,364 A * 3/1976 Codomo et al. 701/3

4,782,511 A * 11/1988 Nemec et al. 379/106.02

4,787,053 A * 11/1988 Moore 701/123

4,816,904 A * 3/1989 McKenna et al. 725/11

4,876,592 A * 10/1989 Von Kohorn 725/23

4,905,080 A * 2/1990 Watanabe et al. 725/14

5,036,625 A * 8/1991 Gosis 451/286

5,408,258 A * 4/1995 Kolessar 725/14

(Continued)

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

EP 0295426 A2 * 12/1988

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

Dyson, E., "Information, Bid and Asked," Forbes, vol. 146, No. 4, p.
92, Aug. 20, 1990.*

(Continued)

Primary Examiner—Nicholas D Rosen

(74) *Attorney, Agent, or Firm*—Sterne, Kessler, Goldstein &
Fox, P.L.L.C.

(57) **ABSTRACT**

A network, including a product sub-system that interacts with a user, gathers information from the user, communicates the information to the product's vendor, and receives new pre-programmed interactions from the vendor for future interactions with the user. The sub-system is in or attached to a product. Further components include a data processing system for constructing and downloading pre-programmed interactions to the product sub-system; a communications sub-system for transmitting the data from the product sub-system to the vendor's computer; a communications apparatus for reading the product sub-system's data, transmitting it to the vendor's computer, and downloading new pre-programmed interactions to the product sub-system; a data processing system residing in the product sub-system for conducting interactions with a user; and a data processing system residing in the vendor's computer for analyzing and reporting information gathered from users.

32 Claims, 35 Drawing Sheets

